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Applicants : TOSHIRO YASUDA et al.

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Serial No. : 08/571,650

Filed : December 13, 1995

For : COMMUNICATION TERMINAL EQUIPMENT AND CALL  
INCOMING CONTROL METHOD

Group A.U. : 2744

Examiner : K. Ferguson

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

As a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in keeping with the guidelines of 37 CFR 1.97, Applicants hereby submit information thought to be relevant to the examination of the above-identified application. Also submitted herewith is a completed form PTO-1449.

The information submitted herewith was cited in an Office Action of a counterpart application in the European Patent Office in an Office Action dated July 6, 1998 and it is

hereby certified that this information is being submitted within three months of that date.

United States Patent 5,329,577 (Norimatsu) relates to a mobile telephone which has a touch sensor that may be operated to respond to a call. Norimatsu teaches that when the telephone receives a call, the telephone alerts the user to the call by outputting a ringing tone through a speaker and also transmits a signaling tone to a base station which may be connected to the telephone over a radio channel and to a public switching telephone network. If the user touches the touch sensor in response to the ringing tone, the telephone stops the signaling tone and thus informs the base station that the user has responded to the call. Norimatsu is distinguished from the present invention by at least its failure to disclose provision of controlling the alert sound generator to change a volume of the alert sound only for the received call, when the alert sound generator is generating the alert sound and the means for specifying a predetermined operation is operated by the user, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the claims.

United States Patent 4,935,735 (DeLuca et al.) relates to a selective call personal paging radio receiver that includes audio and visual means for alerting the user when he or she receives a call. DeLuca et al. teaches a three position slide switch which selects either the low volume, high volume, or power OFF modes and also has an integral momentary contact push switch function. When the switch is moved from the OFF position to either the low or high volume mode and the push switch function is activated within a first

predetermined time after the switch is moved and maintained activated for a second predetermined time, a distinctive alert sequence is generated and then the silent alert mode is entered in which the audio alerting means is disabled and the visual alerting means remains active. DeLuca et al. is distinguished from the present invention by at least its failure to disclose provision of controlling the alert sound generator to change a volume of the alert sound only for the received call, when the alert sound generator is generating the alert sound and the means for specifying a predetermined operation is operated by the user, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the claims.

United States Patent 4,504,701 (Lucchesi) relates to a telephone in which when the handset is in its normal position, the receiver emits an audible ringing signal at a predetermined maximum decibel level, and when the handset is tiltably displaced from its normal orientation, the receiver admits an audible ringing signal of a predetermined low decibel level. Lucchesi teaches that a gravity switch electrically connected in parallel to a resistor are coupled between the ringing circuitry of the telephone and the receiver such that when the handset is in its normal position the gravity switch provides a conductive path for the ringing signal from the ringing circuitry to the receiver, and when the handset is tiltably displaced from its normal position, the conductive path through the gravity switch is broken, thereby causing the ringing signal to traverse the resistor resulting in the attenuation of this signal. Lucchesi is distinguished from the present invention by at least its

failure to disclose provision of controlling the alert sound generator to change a volume of the alert sound only for the received call, when the alert sound generator is generating the alert sound and the means for specifying a predetermined operation is operated by the user, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the claims.

European Patent Application EP 0 275 193 A2 (Saito et al.) relates to a hand-held portable telephone that provides a visual and an audio indication of a received call indicating function. Saito et al. teaches that a ringing sound and a LCD illuminated with the word "CALL" are provided when the telephone receives a call, until the user moves the receiver off-hook, at which time the call is connected. Saito et al. is distinguished from the present invention by at least its failure to disclose provision of controlling the alert sound generator to change a volume of the alert sound only for the received call, when the alert sound generator is generating the alert sound and the means for specifying a predetermined operation is operated by the user, while a communication state between the terminal and the remote caller remains unchanged, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the claims.

European Patent Application EP 0 502 617 A2 (Martensson) relates to a portable telephone that allows a user to cause the telephone to go "off-hook", i.e., to connect a received call, by gently striking, moving, or speaking or shouting to the telephone. Martensson teaches using a switch that responds to shock, movement or acceleration of telephone, or an acoustic switch that responds to acoustic vibrations, to

cause the telephone that is ringing to go "off-hook".

Martensson is distinguished from the present invention by at least its failure to disclose provision of controlling the alert sound generator to change a volume of the alert sound only for the received call, when the alert sound generator is generating the alert sound and the means for specifying a predetermined operation is operated by the user, while a communication state between the terminal and the remote caller remains unchanged, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the claims.

European Patent Application EP 0 408 027 A2 (Tsunoda et al.) relates to a radio communication apparatus that generates an audible tone when the receiver receives a call signal. Tsunoda et al. teaches using a reset switch which is manually operated by the user to stop the tone, and operated a second time to recommence the tone. Tsunoda et al. is distinguished from the present invention by at least its failure to disclose provision of controlling the alert sound generator to change a volume of the alert sound only for the received call, when the alert sound generator is generating the alert sound and the means for specifying a predetermined operation is operated by the user, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the claims.

European Patent Application EP 0 772 334 A2 (Seppanen et al.) relates to a radiotelephone having an alert indicator when an incoming call is received. Seppanen et al. teaches that the volume of the alert indicator can be controlled both before and during the received call. Since the publication date of the European Patent Application of

Seppanen et al. is May 7, 1997, it is not material "prior art" to the present application which has a filing date of December 13, 1995.

International Patent Application PCT/US93/10448 (DeMuro et al.) relates to a radio transceiver having an annunciator circuit having a function analogous to a telephone ringer. DeMuro et al. teaches using a switch for selecting between a high volume and a low volume for the ringing sound. DeMuro et al. is distinguished from the present invention by at least its failure to disclose provision of controlling the alert sound generator to change a volume of the alert sound only for the received call, when the alert sound generator is generating the alert sound and the means for specifying a predetermined operation is operated by the user, while a communication state between the terminal and the remote caller remains unchanged, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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